

# Duxbury Clipper

Founded by John and Roberta Cutler, 1950

E D I T O R I A L

## New Senior Center is Everyone's Cause

Thanks to a vote of town meeting, construction will soon be under way on a new senior center on town-owned land off Mayflower Street. Additional efforts are now needed to provide the interior necessities and program endowments.

Demographic breakdowns supplied by Bob Burnham of the Friends of the Council on Aging, shows that of the town's 5,200 households, 1,780 are occupied by people 60 years and older; 830, by those between 55 and 60 and 810, by those between 50 and 55.

From a financial perspective, the senior center indirectly helps keep a check on Duxbury property taxes. While we all share the burden for our schools, streets and town services, our elders make the greatest net contribution since they don't consume as many services for their tax dollar. Encouraging our seniors to stay in Duxbury as they grow older is to all our benefit.

As these numbers show, the senior center does not just benefit senior citizens. But beyond the number, generous support for the center is simply the right thing to do in our minds.

Duxbury residents are asked to support lots of good causes and they always seem to come through. The South Shore Habitat group is in the midst of fundraising efforts to build an affordable home on Tremont Street. (It bears repeating that while Duxbury voted unanimously for the project, a similar proposal was defeated in Hingham.)

But another worthy cause is before us. The Friends of the Council on Aging will try to raise at least \$400,000 by the target April 1st completion date and \$1 million over three years.

The funds are needed for furniture, including cafeteria tables and chairs, desks, office equipment, computers, kitchen equipment, sofas, lamps, as well as funds to finish furnishing as well as resources to endow programs to run the center activities.

The Community Senior Center will provide opportunities and space for all residents and townwide organizations.

Plans call for creation of a fitness room, cafeteria/kitchen, counseling rooms, art rooms/classrooms, internet/computer rooms, a reading lounge, administrative offices and a full function room.

This weekend's Rebecca Parris concert is one of the many fundraising events local citizens are urged to support for the center. Auctions and other activities are on the horizon. There are also giving plans available in memory of a loved one.

Tax deductible donations can be sent to the Friends of the Council on Aging, P.O. Box AG, Duxbury, MA. 02331.

Let's all try and support the effort.

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